

R E M A R K S

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for granting the recent interview.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite

d) providing a seeding zone in matrix form upstream of said treatment zone and through which said stream of water is passed prior to its introduction to said treatment zone, to entrain microbes growing in the matrix to which nutrient is supplied.

Strudgeon and Miller both lack suggestion of the step d) separate upstream matrix, as at bed 16, upstream of treatment zone or zones (as at the canisters or canisters below matrix fill arrows 28 in Fig. 1), to grow microbes for entrainment by the stream of water (see step b). These references also do not suggest the totality of claim 1, above, or of the dependent claims. Accordingly, claim 1 and all dependent claims are urged to be allowable. Examiner's communication of 1-23-04 is noted.

Claim 1 also refers to the charcoal as being in pellet form as previously elected.

Added claim 13 is the same as claim 1 but omits reference to pellet form, while retaining the term

"granular". It is believed and urged to be allowable over cited art for the same reasons as claim 1 is urged to be allowable, the distinctions over Strudgeon and Miller in sub-paragraph c) having been recognized by Examiner in his 1-23-04 communication. No cited art or combination thereof suggests these distinctions.

In view of the above, allowance of claims 1-13 is believed in order and is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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